



Department of the Army
NASHVILLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1070
NASHVILLE TN 37202-1070

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

FEB 05 2015

Project Planning Branch

To All Interested Parties:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District (USACE) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the City of Harlan, Section 531 Project, in Harlan County, Kentucky. The City of Harlan proposes to rehabilitate a portion of the public sewer system for residents in the Cities of Loyall and Harlan and the Rio Vista community. The proposed project would replace approximately 2,000 linear feet of a 16-inch force main composed of ductile iron pipeline with a 16-inch PVC force main pipeline in the exact location. Three pump stations would be rehabilitated with updated electronics and piping. Project, pipeline, and pump station locations are shown in Figure 1.

The EA evaluated three alternatives for the proposed project as described below:

1. Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, no funding would be provided for sewer line replacement and pump station rehabilitations. This alternative would delay needed maintenance work resulting in an increased risk of sewer collection system failures and raw sewerage spills.
2. Alternative 2 – Preferred Action Alternative: This alternative consists of replacing 2,000 linear feet of corroding 16-inch iron ductile force main piping with 16-inch polyvinyl chloride piping and rehabilitating three existing pump stations at their existing locations.
3. Alternative 3 – New Sewer Line and Pump Stations: This alternative involved abandonment of the existing force main line and pump stations and construction of a new force main and pump stations. This alternative was not considered in detail because it would have been more costly and would have disturbed new ground resulting in greater impacts to the public and natural environment.

The EA determined that no significant direct or indirect impacts from the Preferred Action Alternative – Sewer Line Replacement and Pump Station Rehabilitations. This maintenance work would not affect wetlands or hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste. The Preferred Action Alternative would result in minimal and temporary adverse impacts during construction to the floodplain, noise, traffic, and air quality. The Preferred Action Alternative is proactive maintenance that would protect existing water quality, aquatic resources, terrestrial resources, economic and community development, and the health and safety of the general public.

This letter serves as a Notice of Availability for reviewing the EA and unsigned FONSI. This EA was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) and the USACE implementing regulation, ER 200-2-2, 1988, *Policies and Procedures for Implementing NEPA*.

Electronic copies of these documents can be found at:
<http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/Media/PublicNotices.aspx>

Please submit any written comments **no later than 30 days from the above date** to ensure consideration in the EA. Email responses to: CorpsLRNPlanningPublicCom@usace.army.mil; or mail responses to the address listed above. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Joy Broach, Aquatic Biologist, at (615) 736-7956. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Russ L. Rote', with a stylized, flowing script.

Russ L. Rote, P.E., PMP, CFM
Chief, Project Planning Branch

Enclosure

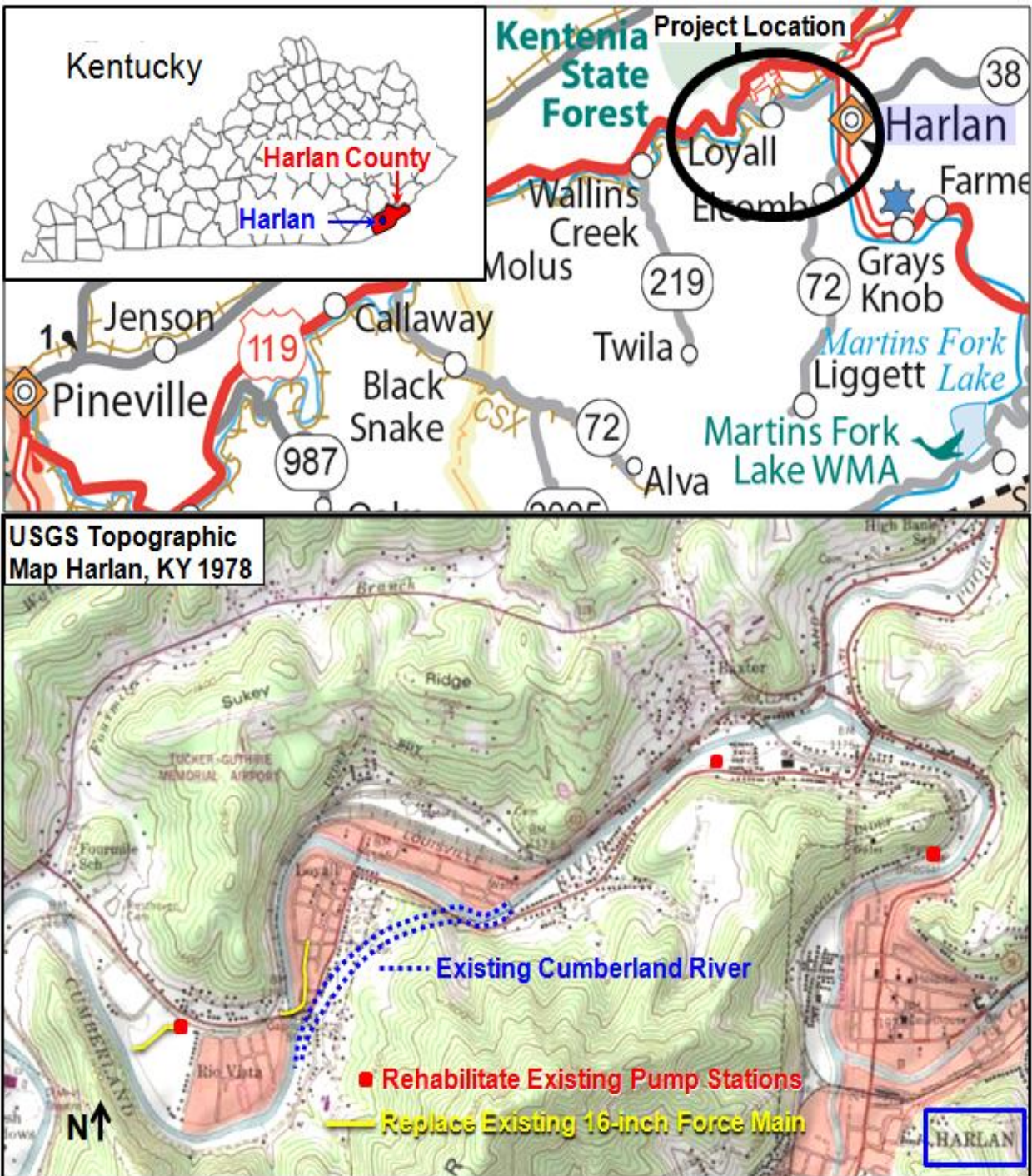


Figure 1. Harlan, Kentucky Vicinity Map and Project Location